

**MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

December 13, 2000  
MAG Office, Saguaro Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

**MEMBERS ATTENDING**

Mayor Skip Rimsza, Phoenix, Chairman	Supervisor Andy Kunasek, Maricopa County
Councilmember Marie Lopez-Rogers for	Mayor Keno Hawker, Mesa
Mayor Ron Drake, Avondale	Mayor Edward Lowry, Paradise Valley
* Mayor Dusty Hull, Buckeye	Vice Mayor Joe LaRue for Mayor John Keegan,
* Mayor Edward Morgan, Carefree	Peoria
* Mayor Vincent Francia, Cave Creek	Mayor Wendy Feldman-Kerr, Queen Creek
* Mayor Jay Tibshraeny, Chandler	* President Ivan Makil, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Councilmember Roy Delgado for Mayor Steve	Indian Community
Garza, El Mirage	* Mayor Mary Manross, Scottsdale
* Mayor Sharon Morgan, Fountain Hills	* Mayor Joan Shafer, Surprise
* Mayor Chuck Turner, Gila Bend	Mayor Neil Giuliano, Tempe
* Governor Donald Antone, Gila River Indian	* Mayor Adolfo Gamez, Tolleson
Community	Mayor Larry Roberts, Wickenburg
Mayor Cynthia Dunham, Gilbert	(via teleconference)
* Mayor Elaine Scruggs, Glendale	Mayor Eugene Russell, Youngtown
Vice Mayor John Leach for Mayor Bill Arnold,	F. Rockne Arnett, ADOT
Goodyear	* Dallas Gant, ADOT
Councilmember Margarita Garcia, Guadalupe	Bill Beyer, Citizens Transportation Oversight
Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas, Litchfield Park	Committee

\*Those members neither present nor represented by proxy.

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Regional Council was called to order by Chairman Skip Rimsza at 5:05 p.m.

Chairman Rimsza stated that agenda items not requiring Council action would be considered until a quorum was met.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Call to the Audience

This agenda item was taken out of order.

Chairman Rimsza recognized public comment from DD Barker, who expressed her thanks for the Early Phase Public Input report. She indicated that the report includes ideas on rapid transit from Mr. Joseph Ryan. Ms. Barker stated that she has requested that a central repository or library of public comment be established at MAG. Chairman Rimsza thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Chairman Rimsza recognized public comment from Bill Stephens, who handed out information on the proposed football stadium. He stated that he has applied for the Executive Director position at the Tourism and Sports Authority. Mr. Stephens stated that there are no hotel or restaurant facilities on the west side to serve a stadium site. The opportunity exists in central Phoenix for infill and reconstruction. Mr. Stephens commented on all coming together to build a hub and locate the stadium facility, including an olympic complex, in central Phoenix. He stated that a transportation system could be best accomplished by establishing a central hub. Mr. Stephens stated that he opposes farmland being wasted. He suggested pooling all money for one site. Chairman Rimsza thanked Mr. Stephens for his comments.

Chairman Rimsza recognized public comment from Blue Crowley, who stated that he requested a written response to why it was not entered into the record that he attempted to attend the final phase input opportunity but was denied access to the building. Mr. Crowley stated that the Deck Park transit station has been taken out of the TIP. He submitted for the record the intergovernmental agreement between the City of Phoenix and the State and a 1994 letter regarding spring training site schedules being included in the Bus Book. Mr. Crowley stated that the cost to finish the Deck Park tunnel was estimated at \$14 to \$15 million in 1995. Mr. Dickey indicates that the cost today is estimated at \$50 to \$100 million. He requested that Mr. Driggs supply him with a written estimate of the cost. Mr. Crowley commented on 1987 funding for park and ride lots. Chairman Rimsza clarified the practice for written staff responses. He stated that written responses are provided at the discretion of the Chair. Mr. Crowley commented that the Feds say written responses are required. Chairman Rimsza thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments.

5. Executive Director's Report

James M. Bourey stated that the Regional Council retreat is scheduled for January 12, 2001. The retreat will be a half day session that will last through lunch. Mr. Bourey stated that the Management Committee retreat is scheduled for December 15, 2000. The agendas for both retreats will be similar.

Mr. Bourey stated that MAG Associates are being hired to assist in MAG's efforts to reach out to underserved population. Mr. Bourey stated that the Associates will work on a task basis.

Mr. Bourey stated that recommendations from the Governor's Transportation Vision 21 Task Force are expected in April 2001. He said that draft recommendations are expected in January and will include base level of funding, corridor projects, and the issue of governance. Mr. Bourey indicated that the Task Force is contemplating formation of a separately elected regional body to oversee regional transportation projects.

Mr. Bourey stated that the Brown Cloud Summit recently made their recommendations. He mentioned that Chairman Rimsza serves on the Summit. Mr. Bourey stated that a series of public meetings are scheduled for input on the recommendations. Chairman Rimsza indicated that he requested that ADEQ work with MAG to address MAG and the City staff concerns on the accuracy of the modeling. He stated that the investment by MAG in the purchase of street vacuums, the additional paving projects and the County's efforts for dust control were conveyed to the Summit.

Mr. Bourey stated that SB 1004 was passed to provide a solution for the alternative fuel program. Mr. Bourey stated that MAG staff provided information to the Governor's office.

Mr. Bourey stated that Barbara Goldberg, MAG General Counsel, had taken a new position in New Jersey. MAG issued an RFP for legal services and has retained Fredda Bisman, Mariscal Weeks, to serve as MAG General Counsel. Mr. Bourey stated Ms. Bisman was formerly with the City of Scottsdale. He indicated that the firm came highly regarded and has significant resources available.

Chairman Rimsza announced that a quorum was present.

Chairman Rimsza stated that Councilmember Roy Delgado for Mayor Steve Garza, El Mirage, Vice Mayor John Leach for Mayor Bill Arnold, Goodyear, Vice Mayor Joe LaRue for Mayor John Keegan, Peoria, and Councilmember Marie Lopez-Rogers for Mayor Ron Drake, Avondale, were present as proxies.

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

Chairman Rimsza stated that agenda items #7 through #11 were on the consent agenda.

Chairman Rimsza recognized public comment from Blue Crowley, who commented on agenda item #8, Submission of Applications for the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program. He said to get the job done. Mr. Crowley stated that when freeways are being constructed, park and ride lots are to be determined in the plan, not afterward. Mr. Crowley stated that Mr. Arnett is on the stadium site selection committee. He requested that Mr. Arnett consider the west side. Chairman Rimsza thanked Mr. Crowley for his comments.

Chairman Rimsza recognized public comment from DD Barker, who stated her support for rail. She indicated that RPTA is examining the potential for using existing rail infrastructure. Ms. Barker stated that to be competitive, you need to give people something more than what they have, such as speed. Ms. Barker expressed support for completion of the Deck Park station. Ms. Barker commented on implementing a bare bones price in order to complete the station. She stated that if buses cannot go under, they can get exit at 3rd Street. Chairman Rimsza thanked Ms. Barker for her comments.

Chairman Rimsza asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Bill Beyer moved to approve consent agenda items #7, #8, #9, #10, and #11. Mayor Edward Lowry seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. Consultation on Conformity Assessment for a Proposed Amendment to the FY 2001-2005 MAG Transportation Improvement Program

The Regional Public Transportation Authority has requested an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program to add a right-of-way acquisition project for a proposed Gilbert park and ride lot. The project may be categorized as exempt, which does not require a conformity determination.

8. Submission of Applications for the Transportation and Community and System Preservation Pilot Program

The Regional Council, by consent, concurred with the TCSP applications being submitted to the Federal Highway Administration. In October, the deadline for receiving applications for the Transportation and Community and System Preservation pilot program (TCSP) was announced. The purpose of the TCSP is to provide funding for planning and implementation grants, as well as research

to investigate and address the relationship between transportation and community system preservation. To date, three applications have been received. The Management Committee concurred that the applications be submitted for funding.

9. Amendment to the FY 2001-2005 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for Park and Ride Project

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the amendment to the FY 2001-2005 MAG Transportation Improvement Program for the Gilbert Park and Ride project. On January 19, 2000, the FY 2000-2004 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was amended to include six transit projects. On July 26, 2000, the FY 2001-2005 MAG TIP was approved by the MAG Regional Council. Because the project for acquisition of land for the Gilbert park and ride lot was not obligated, it needs to be included in the current TIP. This project may be categorized as exempt for transportation conformity analysis purposes. The Management Committee recommended approval.

10. Approval of the July 1, 2000 Municipality Resident Population Updates

The Regional Council, by consent, approved the July 1, 2000 Municipality Resident Population Updates. MAG staff has prepared draft July 1, 2000 Municipality Resident Population Updates. The Updates were prepared using data supplied and verified by MAG member agencies and a method that has been used over the past ten years. These Municipality Updates were also made consistent with a draft July 1, 2000 Maricopa County Update that was approved by the Regional Council on November 1, 2000. The Management Committee recommended approval of the Municipality Updates.

11. Amendment to the FY 2001 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to Accept Grants from the Arizona Community Foundation, Arizona Department of Commerce, Paradise Valley United Methodist Church and Various MAG Member Agencies

The Regional Council, by consent, approved amending the FY 2001 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to accept a \$50,000 grant from the Arizona Department of Commerce, grants totaling \$50,000 from various MAG member agencies, \$1,500 from the Arizona Community Foundation and \$18,000 from the Paradise Valley United Methodist Church to support domestic violence and homeless planning functions approved by the Regional Council. MAG received funding from public agencies to support year-round planning to develop an effective and efficient system of services and housing for our Valley's homeless population. The grants are also to enable the support needed to develop and submit an application to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Stewart B. McKinney Act funds. In addition, MAG received a grant of \$18,000 from the Paradise Valley United Methodist Church to develop a manual related to domestic violence for use by the Valley's clergy. It is necessary to amend the FY 2001 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget to accept these funds. The Management Committee recommended amending the FY 2001 MAG Unified Planning Work Program and Annual Budget.

13. Selection of Regional Videoconferencing System Contractor

This agenda item was taken out of order.

Heidi Pahl stated that in March 2000, the Regional Council recommended that the firm Intellisys Group be selected to implement the MAG Regional Videoconferencing System. On October 2, 2000, MAG was informed by Intellisys Group that its Tempe office had been closed. Intellisys assured MAG that the company would continue to support the RVS from its Denver office and find a local solution for ongoing service and support. On October 9, 2000, Intellisys Group announced that it was selling the assets of the company as a part of their Chapter 11 reorganization. Ms. Pahl stated that on November 2, 2000, MAG gave notice of termination to Intellisys with an effective date of November 17, 2000, because Intellisys Group did not comply with their contractual obligations to MAG.

Ms. Pahl stated that MAG issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on November 7, 2000, for the completion of the installation of the Regional Videoconferencing System and three years service and support. In response to the RFP, proposals were received from Norstan Communications, Inc. and Wire One Technologies, Inc. On December 1, 2000, the Proposal Group reached a consensus that Norstan Communications, Inc. be selected to complete the Regional Videoconferencing System and provide service and support for three years. On December 1, 2000, the MAG Telecommunications Advisory Group (MAGTAG) held a special meeting to consider the findings of the Proposal Group. The MAGTAG unanimously recommended the selection of Norstan Communications, Inc.

Ms. Pahl stated that the recommendation was communicated on December 5, 2000 to the Management Committee for feedback. No comments were received from members. Ms. Pahl asked members to approve the recommendation as written in agenda item #13. She noted that following approval, MAG staff will work with Norstan to ensure that the project will proceed before the end of the year. Ms. Pahl stated that completion of the Videoconferencing System is anticipated for April 2001. Chairman Rimsza thanked Ms. Pahl for her presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Mayor Hawker asked for clarification of the performance bond. Ms. Pahl stated that the bond was issued in the amount of \$1,999,954 from Amwest Surety Company. She stated that there is a fairly strong claim with Amwest. Mr. Bourey stated that through the surety bond and the fact that equipment was delivered that has not been paid for, the cost of completing the project will not be more than was anticipated. Rita Walton clarified that the surety bond amount was \$1.1 million, not the figure given previously. Mayor Hawker asked for clarification of the motion. Mr. Bourey stated that the requested motion was to authorize the MAG Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract with Norstan Communications, Inc. to complete the Regional Videoconferencing System and to provide service and support for three years for an amount not to exceed the original budgeted amount for the MAG Regional Videoconferencing System. He stated that MAG would continue to work with the surety company. Chairman Rimsza stated that the amount from the surety company and the equipment delivered for which payment was not made, would accomplish making the contract whole. Mr. Arnett asked if Norstan would be posting a bond. Mr. Bourey replied that they would. He stated that MAG's intent is to pursue the legal requirements needed for the contract.

Chairman Rimsza asked for a motion. Mayor Hawker moved to authorize the MAG Executive Director to negotiate and execute a contract with Norstan Communications, Inc. to complete the Regional Videoconferencing System and to provide service and support for three years for an amount not to exceed the original budgeted amount for the MAG Regional Videoconferencing System. Mayor Dunham seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Rimsza extended his congratulations to staff for having the foresight to obtain the surety bond.

3. Approval of November 1, 2000 Meeting Minutes

This agenda item was taken out of order.

Chairman Rimsza asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of the November 1, 2000 meeting. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve.

Mayor J. Woodfin Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2000 meeting. Mayor Dunham seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

12. MAG Regional Congestion Study

This agenda item was taken out of order.

Mark Schlappi stated that the 1998 Congestion Study would be used as a base for transportation studies, to calibrate the MAG travel demand model, and supply data for traffic engineering studies. Mr. Schlappi showed a map of the project area and stated that the project quantifies congestion for 110 miles of freeways and 700 major intersections. The next map showed weekday volumes on freeways. Mr. Schlappi mentioned that as many as 264,000 cars pass through downtown Phoenix per day on I-10. Additional maps shown included PM peak hour volumes on HOV lanes and weekday truck traffic on freeways.

Mr. Schlappi showed maps of the Level of Service (LOS) at intersections and on freeway general purpose lanes during the PM peak period. He then showed a version of the LOS on the general purpose lanes in 1989 and noted that congestion has increased. Mr. Schlappi displayed graphs comparing 1989 data to 1998 data for PM peak hour intersections, freeways, roadway capacity miles, growth in population and employment to vehicle miles traveled, and vehicle miles of travel to roadway capacity. He stated that this was the end of the first segment of his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Mayor Hawker asked for clarification of HOV lanes capacity. Mr. Schlappi stated that 2,000 vehicles per hour per lane is capacity. In congestion, this drops to 1,700 to 1,800. He mentioned that the capacity is the same on HOV lanes as general, however, the HOV lane moves more passengers. Mayor Hawker commented that HOV lanes are not being used at capacity, even during rush hour. He commented whether HOV use should be abandoned and the lanes be used as full capacity. Mayor Hawker asked if HOV lanes are effective at the 1,700 capacity rate. Mr. Schlappi replied that some freeways are not being used at this capacity level. He stated that the 202 is a good example.

Mr. Bourey stated that HOV lanes on some freeways are not being used at capacity because the system connectivity has not yet been completed. He stated that usage will improve when this connectivity is completed. Mayor Hawker stated that he was trying to confirm whether money spent on HOV lanes is being spent well.

Mr. Schlappi gave a demonstration of an interactive CD that is currently available from MAG. Mr. Schlappi explained that by clicking on the red dot of an intersection or freeway segment, an aerial photograph of the selected area is shown. The photograph can be scrolled in various directions. Chairman Rimsza thanked Mr. Schlappi for his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Mayor Russell asked for clarification of the congestion on Grand Avenue, as shown in Mr. Schlappi's demonstration. Mr. Schlappi stated that congestion is caused by both the amount of traffic and the number of roadways that intersect. He stated that by having six approaches at an intersection instead of four, the capacity is cut by one third. Mayor Russell commented on improvements being made without much accomplished in relieving congestion. Mr. Bourey commented that Grand Avenue does not carry a large number of vehicles as capacity goes, but the number of intersections and the rail impact congestion.

Bill Beyer asked about plans to update the Congestion Study for new freeway connections. Mr. Schlappi replied that staff is developing a scope of work for a bottleneck study. An RFP is expected to be issued in February. Mr. Beyer stated that an update of the Congestion Study every two to three years would be helpful.

Mayor Thomas noted that the only intersection on Grand Avenue with a yellow dot, representing better than a level of service F, was Indian School Road. He commented that this could be due to the fact that Indian School has an overpass over Grand Avenue.

Chairman Rimsza announced that a dinner for the members of the Regional Council and their staff who have confirmed their dinner reservations will be held in the MAG offices on the third floor.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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Chairman

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Secretary